

Women in Michigan: Statistical Highlights*

Population

According to the 2002 census, there were 10,050,446 people in Michigan, with 50.9% (5,116,223) being females. Of the Michigan female population, 81.8% are white, 15.3% are black, 2.2% are Asian and Pacific Islander, and 0.7% are Native American. Individuals identified as being of Hispanic origin are included within the racial categories White, Black, Native American and Asian/Pacific Islander (National Center for Health Statistics).

The median age of men and women in Michigan in 2002 was 36.2. The median age for men in Michigan in 2002 was 35.0, for women 37.3. This is quite an increase from 1980, when the median age was 29.8 for women and 27.8 for men.

75.4% women reside in urban areas and 24.6% of Michigan women live in rural areas.

Education

In Michigan, 83.3 % of women age 18 and older have completed high school in 2000. This is a significant increase from 1980 when 70% completed high school and in 1970 when 54% completed high school.

In 2000, 6.3% of Michigan women (age 18 or older) had obtained graduate or professional degrees, 12.4% had bachelor's degrees, 7.2% had associate's degrees, 25.5% had some postsecondary education, 31.6% had graduated from high school or its equivalent. 16.6% of Michigan women, however, had not obtained a high school degree or its equivalent.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics degree completions for women in 1999-2000 for Michigan public & private universities and professional schools:

Bachelors	27,500 or 57%
Masters	13,095 or 58%
Doctorates	631 or 41%
Professional	1,050 or 45%

Women make up the majority of students in Michigan institutions. The enrollment data for 1999-2000 in Michigan public and private four-year colleges and universities and professional schools, according to the National Center for Education Statistics:

Female full and part-time undergraduate enrollment	– 164,449 or 57%
Female full and part-time graduate and professional enrollment	– 47,128 or 60%

According to a national study sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society, in 2002 nationally, only between 3% and 15% of full professors at top engineering and science departments are women, although the percentage of women attaining doctorates during the last 20 years is substantially higher than previously.

In the 2001 school year, women made up 94% of the paraprofessional personnel in the K-12 school system, 74% of the teaching personnel, and 48% of the school administrators. Women are a significant force in elementary and secondary school education, making up 76% of the total personnel. (CEPI-MEIS)

Marital and Household Characteristics

Marriage rates in Michigan have continued to decline since 1970. In 2002, slightly over half, 54%, of adult women in Michigan were married. Of the remaining women, 25% have never married, 10% were widowed and 12% were divorced.

In Michigan, the median age of marriage continues to rise. In 2002, the median age for marriage was 25 years for women and 27 years for men up from 22.1 years for women and 24.6 years for men in 1980.

The number of female-headed families receiving child support or alimony in 2002 was 33% in Michigan versus 36% nationally.

The divorce rate in Michigan in 2002 was 7.7 per thousand, slightly less than the national rate of 8.0 per thousand and less than the rate of 9.7 per thousand in 1980.

In Michigan, fourteen children per 1,000 experienced divorce in 2002. This is the lowest number since 1970.

In Michigan in 2000, there were a total of 3,785,661 family and single-person households. Of the family households, 51.45% were occupied by married couples; 12.5% were headed by women; 4.1% of the households were headed by men. 26.2% of all Michigan households were households made up of one person. A majority of these single-person households, 56.5%, consisted of a female living alone.

Labor Force Participation

In 2000, 2.3 million women in Michigan were in the labor force. 58.5% of all women ages 16-64 work outside the home, and women comprise 46.8% of the state's labor force. This was not much of an increase from 1985, when 54% of all women worked outside the home.

In Michigan, in 2000, 60.9% of Michigan's children under age 6 had both parents working, according to Michigan's Children.

Nationally, women and men are not equally represented in all professions. In March 2002, 60% of women and 74 percent of men were in the labor force. In 2002, in the U.S. 73% of women aged 16 and older worked in just four occupational categories: 23% women worked in administrative support, including clerical; 19% worked in professional specialty jobs; 17% worked as service workers; and 15% in executive, administrative and managerial positions.

Nationally, the number of union women has increased between 1990 and 2000, and women now represent 41.1% of union members.

According to the Families and Work Institute, in 2003, 39% of women, compared to 28% of men held managerial jobs in professions, including law and medicine. In a similar research done in 1977 by the Labor Department, only 24% of women held managerial jobs.

As of 2002, there were estimated 217,132 majority-owned, privately-held women-owned firms in Michigan, accounting for 31% of all privately-held firms in the state. Women-owned firms in Michigan employ over 292,000 people and generate nearly \$38.1 billion in sales.

Between 1997 and 2002, the Center for Women's Business Research estimates that the number of women-owned firms in Michigan increased by 28%, and sales increased by 44%.

According to the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, from FY 1980 to FY 2003, the percentage of females working directly for state government in Michigan has declined from 54% to less than 51%. However, when the Department of Corrections' positions are not included, the proportion of females employed by the state increased from 56% in FY 1980 to 59% in FY 2003.

According to the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, of the 8 primary job categories in state government, women are the overwhelming majority in paraprofessional positions and office/clerical staff. In the officials and administrators category, women made gains from 9.5% female in FY 1980 to almost 41 % in FY 2003.

Income and Benefits

In 2002, Michigan females who worked full-time had median annual earnings of \$30,249, compared to \$44,430 for Michigan men.

Nationally, the median weekly earnings for women who were full-time wage and salary workers were 78% of their male counterpart in 2002. In 1979, the first year of comparable data, women earned 63% as much as men.

Michigan data show that women do not fare as well as men in this state. In 1999, women working full-time earned a median income that was 68% of men's median income. When all aggregate earnings are compared (1999 data), Michigan women earned 53% of men's aggregate earnings, according to the MI Pay Equity Network.

According to the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, in FY 1977, the average female employee earned \$0.76 per dollar earned by a male. In FY 2001, females earned an average of \$0.92 for every dollar earned by males.

Nationally, white workers of either gender earned more than their black or Hispanic counterparts in 2002, although the differences among women were much smaller than those among men.

Nationally, 25.2% of all female wage and salary workers in 2002 worked part time – less than 35 hours per week.

Nationally, women were less likely than men to be employed in some of the highest-paying occupations, such as engineers and mathematical and computer scientists. Instead women were more likely to work in lower paying professional occupations, such as teachers (except college and university).

Nationally, in 2002, those women affiliated with a union received higher earnings as a percent of men than those not represented by a union.

Poverty and Welfare

The poverty rates of the US population by sex and age in 2001, show 16.4% of females compared to 16.2% for males aged under 18 years; 11.6% of females compared to 8.5% males aged 18-64 years; and 12.4% of females compared to 7.0% of men 65 years and over, live in poverty.

Women are more likely than men to live in poverty. Nationally in 2001, 12.9% of the female population and 10.4% of the male population lived below the poverty level.

In Michigan, 616,243 females lived below the national poverty status, approximately 12% of all Michigan women. In the U.S., poverty rates are higher for females than for males at every age among people of every race and origin. In 2000, 12.6 percent of women live in poverty.

In Michigan, in 2002, 6% of children live in extreme poverty – below 50% of the poverty level compared to 7% nationally. In Michigan 14% of the children live in poverty compared to 17% in U.S. In 1990, the state level was 19% compared to 20% U.S. of children living in poverty.

Nationally in 2000, nearly one in three (32.5 percent) of female-headed families were in poverty, nearly double the rate for male-headed families and more than five times that for married couples.

Health

In 2001, life expectancy for Michigan white women was 79.9 years versus 74.7 years for white men. Black women's life expectancy was 74.2 and black males' life expectancy was 67.3, the lowest of the 4 groups.

The leading causes of death listed in order for Michigan women in 2001 were heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's disease, unintentional injuries, diabetes, pneumonia and kidney disease.

23.6% of Michigan women currently smoke, with 5,857 smoking-attributable deaths annually and 105,266 smoking-attributable years of potential life lost.

According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Summary, Michigan, 2001, it is estimated that 11.7% of Michigan people between 18-64 have no health care coverage.

In Michigan, 60.4% of adults are overweight. Among all Michigan adults, 24.7 percent are obese. Michigan has among one of the highest rates in that nation. More women than men in Michigan are overweight.

In Michigan, 1,081,930 males and 528,585 females are in need for substance abuse treatment based on 2000 figures.

Reproduction

Of the 129,518 children born in Michigan in 2002, 78% were White; 18% were Black; and 4% Native American and other, a similar distribution as in 1984. The median age for the mother was 27.

In 2000, 41.2% of pregnancies were unintended. Currently in Michigan, more than six of every ten babies born to families on Medicaid are unintended compared to three in ten in families not on Medicaid. The cost of each birth (prenatal care, delivery, and first year child care) to Medicaid is approximately \$11,000, according to the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The greatest number of unintended births are to women ages twenty to twenty nine, 30,379 of 71,989 in 2000 (42%). Teens have the highest percentage of unintended pregnancies, at 70%

The infant mortality rate in Michigan was 8.1 per 1,000 versus the national average of 6.9. There is a disparity between races, White 6.0 per 1,000, Black 18.4 and other races 4.2.

Black infants in Michigan are more than twice as likely as white infants to be low in birth weight, under 2,500 grams, (6.7% vs. 14.1%), and to have received no or little prenatal care (5.5% vs. 14.0%) in 2002. There are improvements since 1984.

In 2002, one-fifth of all births where the mother received no prenatal care were to teen mothers and of these, 41% were Black. This is an improvement since the 1980s.

In 2002, black maternal mortality (27.0 per 100,000 live births) in Michigan is 4.6 times that of white mothers (5.9 per 100,000 live births) and higher than the national rate for black mothers (24.7 per 100,000 live births).

Domestic Violence (Source MI Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board)

Only in the late 1970s and 1980s was domestic violence acknowledged to be a public policy concern.

Michigan funds 45 domestic violence shelters for all 83 counties. Most of the shelters are operated under local auspices with some state funding subsidy.

In 1985, nearly 6,000 women and 10,000 children were served by the shelters in Michigan, but more than 2,000 persons were denied shelter because of lack of beds. In fiscal year 2002, 103,377 nights of shelter in the 45 Michigan domestic violence shelters were provided to adults as well as 129,264 nights of shelter for children. In fiscal year 2002, there were 5,000 denials at shelters due to full capacity.

In FY 2002, the number of residential women served was 6,001. The number of residential children served was 6,909. The number of non-residential women served was 15,708. The number of non-residential children served was 4,132.

The average age of women coming to shelter is 32 years old with an average of 2 children.

The relationship data are as follows:

- 36.4% are a spouse or former spouse;
- 37.6% are a partner or former partner;
- 17% are in a dating relationship;
- 9% other

In Michigan, 40% of women have experienced some form of sexual violence ranging from unwanted touching to forcible rape, since the age of 16. Almost 5000 rapes and attempted rapes were reported to Michigan law enforcement agencies in 2000.

Older Women (65 years old and older)

In Michigan in 2000, 12.3% of Michigan population were over 65 years of age, 1,219,018. Of that figure, 718,059 were females (59%).

In 2000 in Michigan, 24.8% of women over 65 were employed.

In 2000, of the Michigan population over 65 years of age (495,677), 42.3% had a disability.

Nationally, women make up 58 percent of the population age 65 and older and 70 percent of the population 85 and older. In 1998, about 41 percent of older women were living alone, compared with 17 percent of older men.

Nationally, the poverty rate for elderly women, in 2000 as in 1990, especially women 75 or older, was much higher than the rate for their male counterparts.

Today, four out of 10 single black women over age 65 and nearly five out of 10 older and single Hispanic women live in poverty; a rate twice that of white women of the same age.

15% of older black women and 8 percent of Hispanic older women received pension income in 2000. Today, just 38 percent of black women, 26 percent of Hispanic women and 38 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander women are covered by any sort of pension in the workplace.

Older black households have an estimated median net worth of just \$13,000, compared with a median \$181,000 for older white households.

Politics

In 2000, 71.9% of Michigan's women were registered to vote and 56.3% of the women voted, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm became our first female Governor on January 1, 2003, following 46 men who served before her for more than 165 years.

Nationally, there are seven women serving as Governors in the United States, in Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Utah. In U.S. history, only 25 women have ever served as Governor.

By 2004, Michigan had elected six women to statewide elective executive office positions: Jennifer Granholm as both Governor and Attorney General; Terri Lynn Land and Candice Miller as Secretaries of State; Connie Binsfeld, Martha Griffiths and Matilda Wilson as Lieutenant Governors.

In 2004, at the national level, Michigan has one woman serving as Senator, Debbie Stabenow, and two women serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Candice Miller and Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick. Five other women have served in the U.S. House of Representatives for Michigan: Lynn Rivers, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Rose-Collins, Martha Griffiths and Ruth Thompson.

In 2004, at the state level, the Michigan has the most women in our history serving in the Senate, eleven women out of 38. Michigan has 24 women serving in the Michigan House of Representatives out of 110. This number is lower than in 1997-2000 when there were 31 women.

Child Abuse (source the Children's Trust Fund)

More than 350 possible cases of child abuse and neglect are reported each day in Michigan. Statistics indicate many more go unreported.

Between 1993 & 2000 there has been an increase in Michigan of 37.7% of in substantiated abuse and neglect cases. (1993 –19,522, 2000 – 26,886)

In 2001, 64% of the children abused in Michigan were under the age of 10.

Every 60 minutes, 3 children are abused in Michigan.

1 out of every 5 children will be abused or neglected by the time they turn 18.

Children under two years of age are more likely to die from abuse than from car accidents, drowning or fires.

87% of the time a Michigan child is abused or neglected by a parent.

The Children's Trust Fund, established by the legislature in 1982, is the only independent, statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Michigan.

**Unless otherwise indicated, data comes from the 2000 U.S. Census site, 2002 American Community Survey, www.census.gov, or the Michigan Department of Community Health's statistics, <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>.*

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